

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 TRSE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2137

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: WEEKEND CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

1. SUMMARY. CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS OVER WEEKEND HERE WERE MAJOR POLITICAL SPEECHES AT ARISTOTELOS SQUARE NOVEMBER 2 AND 3 BY ANDREAS PAPANDREOU AND GEORGE MAVROS RESPECTIVELY. WHILE EMBASSY COVERING SUBSTANCE OF SPEECHES, FOLLOWING IS BHNSRELEAPARISON#AND FLAVOR OF TWO EVENTS AS SEEN HERE. END SUMMARY.

2. OF TWO RALLIES, NOVEMBER 3 APPEARANCE BY MAVROS WAS LARGER WITH TURNOUT COMPARABLE TO THAT FOR KARAMANLIS HERE OCTOBER 27 (THESS 682). SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT WEATHER NOVEMBER 3 IDEAL AND MANY OF CROWD PROBABLY EVENING STROLLERS AND BYSTANDERS. CROWDS WERE MOSTLY WELL-DRESSED MIDDLE CLASS AND RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO MAVROS, BUT NOT WITH ORGANIZED APPLAUSE THAT PUNCTUATED KARAMANLIS AND PAPANDREOU RALLIES. PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED WERE MAVROS' ATTACKS ON NATO AND "SUPER-POWERS", AND RHETORICAL QUESTION HOW COME JUNTA LEADERS NOW IN LUXURIOUS KEA HOTEL WHILE HE HIMSELF MISERABLY

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CONFINED ON YIAROS "FOR NO CRIME".

3. PAPANDREOU RALLY NOVEMBER 2 WAS CONSIDERABLY SMALLER WITH ESTIMATED 60 PERCENT OF MAVROS TURNOUT. PAPANDREOU MET BY SUPPORTERS AT AIRPORT PRIOR TO SPEECH AND HEADED NOISY PROCESSION OF APPROX 1,000 VEHICLES TO DOWNTOWN AREA. HIS APPEARANCE ON HOTEL BALCONY, ACCOMPANIED BY AMERICAN WIFE MARGARET, MET WITH THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE FROM LARGELY YOUNG CROWD, VARIOUSLY ESTIMATED AT UP TO 60,000. (CROWD ESTIMATES VARY WIDELY, BUT OUR OWN CONSERVATIVE JUDGEMENT NOW IS THAT KARAMANLIS AND MAVROS DREW ABOUT 60,000 AND PAPANDREOU 35 TO 40,000.) ORGANIZATION AND NOISE LEVEL PROBABLY HIGHEST OF THREE MAJOR RALLIES HERE. PARTICULARLY APPLAUDED WERE CALLS FOR "SOCIALIZATION" OF BANKS, EXPORT-IMPORT BUSINESSES, AND BIG INDUSTRIES (INCLUDING ESSO-PAPPAS), AND FOR "AMERICANS OUT OF GREECE". STRONG CRITICISM OF MAVROS AS "COLLABORATOR" WITH KISSINGER AND OF KARAMANLIS AS "RIGHTIST REACTIONARY" PROVOKED ONLY MUTED APPLAUSE. THESE AND OTHER INDIVIDUAL REFERENCES NOT INCLUDED IN PUBLISHED TEXT OF SPEECH.

4. PASOK ALSO SPONSORED MEMORIAL SERVICE HERE NOVEMBER 3 FOR LATE GEORGE PAPANDREOU, AND BOTH CU AND PASOK STAGED LARGE CAMPAIGN DINNERS FOR THESSALONIKI SUPPORTERS. PAPANDREOU ALSO SPOKE AT ALEXANDROUPOLIS LATE NOVEMBER 3 AND SCHEDULED TO GIVE SPEECHES NOVEMBER 4 AT KOMOTINI, XANTHI AND KAVALA. MAVROS TO SPEAK AT IOANNITSA AND EDESSA NOVEMBER 4.

5. FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF MAJOR RALLIES HERE, CONGEN NOW PREPARING OVERALL TELEGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT OF ELECTION PROSPECTS IN NORTHERN GREECE.
BRENNAN

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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